

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2005

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 39**

**Introduced by Senator Alquist**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Chu)

**(Coauthors: Senators *Battin*, *Bowen*, *Ducheny*, *Dutton*, *Escutia*,  
*Kuehl*, *Ortiz*, *Romero*, *Soto*, and *Speier*)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Cohn, Daucher, Evans,  
Goldberg, Karnette, Liu, Negrete McLeod, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley,  
Sharon Runner, and Saldana)

April 6, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39—Relative to Sexual Assault  
Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 39, as amended, Alquist. Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

This measure would resolve that the month of April be designated  
henceforth as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has stated  
2 that a “woman is raped every 46 seconds in the United States”  
3 and that sexual assault is a “silent epidemic”; and  
4 WHEREAS, In California, there were 9,918 forcible rapes  
5 reported in 2003; and  
6 WHEREAS, It is estimated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics  
7 that over 70 percent of rapes are never reported to police; and  
8 WHEREAS, Sixty-seven percent of all victims of sexual  
9 assault reported to law enforcement agencies were under 18 years  
10 of age, and 34 percent of all victims were under 12 years of age;  
11 and

1 WHEREAS, One of every seven victims of sexual assault  
2 reported to law enforcement agencies were under six years of  
3 age, and 40 percent of the offenders who victimized children  
4 under six years of age were under 18 years of age; and

5 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of  
6 sexual assault and it is estimated that one in three women, one in  
7 four girls, one in six boys, and one in 11 men will be victims at  
8 least once in their lifetimes; and

9 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impacts women,  
10 children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic  
11 backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types  
13 of sexual violence, including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,  
14 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, stalking,  
15 serial rape, ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual  
16 molestation, prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and  
18 emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated severe  
19 and long-lasting consequences of posttraumatic stress disorder,  
20 substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating  
21 disorders, and suicide; and

22 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
23 have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly, and  
24 preventable health issue; and

25 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men in our state have the  
26 right to be safe from sexual violence in their homes, at school, at  
27 work, and on the streets; and

28 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support rape survivors  
29 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

30 WHEREAS, It is crucially important to hold perpetrators  
31 responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at  
32 every opportunity; and

33 WHEREAS, A coalition of rape crisis centers, known as the  
34 California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has emerged to  
35 directly confront this crisis with the cooperation of law  
36 enforcement agencies, churches, health care providers, and other  
37 helping professionals from California's diverse communities; and

38 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and  
39 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their

1 commitment, and increase public understanding of this  
2 significant problem; and

3 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,  
4 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and  
5 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality  
6 of sexual assault; and

7 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize that not all victims of  
8 sexual assault survive, either at the time of the assault or later,  
9 due to the horrific long-term trauma that sexual assault often  
10 inflicts upon victims; and

11 WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts  
12 underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths  
13 and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in  
14 a common goal of ending sexual assault; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
16 *thereof concurring*, That, henceforth, the month of April shall be  
17 designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
19 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to  
20 the Governor, to the Director of the United States Justice  
21 Department's Office for Victims of Crime, and to each Senator  
22 and Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
23 States.